

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A picture coding method for transmission on a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, which method uses motion estimation coding and divides the picture into a plurality of segments ~~independently of the image information within each segment~~ separated by synchronization signals, with each segment made up of macroblocks, wherein, at least for an edge block of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend across a synchronization signal into an adjacent segment.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein, for an edge macroblock of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent macroblock of the adjacent segment.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein, for motion vector estimation, the picture is scanned from left to right and from top to bottom and, for macroblocks adjacent the top edge of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein, for motion vector estimation, the picture is scanned from left to right and from top to bottom and, for macroblocks adjacent the right-hand edge of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein each segment is made up of two groups of blocks.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the error rate is greater than 10^{-6} , or even greater than 10^{-4} .

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission rate is less than 100 kbit/s.

8. (Original) A coder implementing the method of claim 1.

9. (Previously Presented) A transmission system using a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, the system including a coder according to claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) A picture coding method for transmission on a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, the method comprising:
performing motion estimation coding on transmitted data of a picture;

dividing the picture into a plurality of segments ~~independently of the image information within each segment~~separated from one another by synchronization signals, with each segment comprising one or more macroblocks,

wherein, at least for an edge block of a corresponding segment of the picture, a respective motion estimation vector is permitted to extend across a synchronization signal into an adjacent segment.

11. (Previously Presented) A picture coding method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said performing motion estimation coding comprises estimating all motion vectors except for the edge block of the corresponding segment inside the segment.

12. (Previously Presented) A picture coding method as claimed in claim 10 wherein said performing motion estimation coding and said dividing the picture into a plurality of segments are performed in accordance with ITU standard H.263+.

13. (Previously Presented) A picture coding method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said performing motion estimation coding and said dividing the picture into a plurality of segments are performed in accordance with ITU standard H.263+.